

"Piece By Piece -- Cenaculum!"

Text: Mark 14:14, "And wherever he shall go in, say to the owner of the house,
The Master saith, Where is the guest room, where I shall eat
the passover with my disciples?"

Scripture: Mark 14:12-16

In dealing with our theme for Lent, we have used places as the object of our sermons for each service. Tonight we are going to deal with a thing and not a place. The thing in question is the very familiar Upper Room. However, in order to prolong the suspense a little, I have identified it as the "Cenaculum." This is what the name of the room in which Jesus ate the Last Supper has come to be known as. It is an eating room of a Roman house in which the "Cena" or supper, or latest meal was taken. The room in which Jesus ate the Last Supper can be found today on the first floor of the Mosque En Neby Daud in Jerusalem. And it is called the Cenacle, or Cenaculum. There is a certain amount of intrigue involved in this story of Jesus securing the Upper Room for the last meal. When we realize that people were out to get Jesus and He was very acutely aware of it as well, we can see that this plot does justice to a mystery novel.

We realize of course that Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and His disciples remind Him of this and ask Him where they should make the necessary preparations. So He sends two of them into the city looking for a man carrying a water jar. Now this may seem like an impossible task to look for a man carrying a water jar on his head in all of the mob that must have filled Jerusalem. But when we realize that the carrying of water was considered womens work, and no self-respecting man would normally consider carrying a water jar, then we realize that it became a very simple task to go to a certain place and to look for a man with a water jar on his head. And this they did. But we must also look at it from the angle that Jesus must have pre-arranged this meeting ~~of this~~ with this man. Jesus was not to do things hap-hazardly and especially in these last days. He had very deliberately planned His moves and it is an almost certainty that He wanted to eat this one last meal with them. Luke's Gospel tells us that His words at the beginning of the meal were, "With desire I have desired to eat

Passover with you before I suffer." This would mean then that He had deliberately brought them to this time and this moment where He could share these final intimacies with them. It was also a Jewish custom that pilgrims coming to Jerusalem could ask a homeowner for the use of a room for the Feast. It was also customary for Rabbi's to use a room to eat this meal with his pupils. There were many of these rooms built on top of houses and kept primarily for this purpose. They had a stairway going up the outside, so it did not disturb the homeowner when the guests arrived or departed.

So the disciples were instructed that after they had located the man carrying the water jar, they were to follow him to his destination, and then to inquire where the guest room was. The password seems to have been, "The Master saith, where is the guest room where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?" This type of asking also lends itself to the thought that these plans were ~~pre-~~arranged.

When we consider this story isn't it rather ironic that there were two separate and distinct times that Jesus arrived in ~~Jerusalem~~ a town that was filled to capacity, and the two results were alike and yet were dissimilar. The first time was when Jesus was being carried inside His mother and He arrived in Bethlehem and there wasn't a place for Him to be born properly. The second of course was His arrival in Jerusalem for the Passover and there was room for Him. ^{Upon} His arrival into the world there was no room for Him. But before His departure from this world, room was found for Him. Strange isn't it?, that when He arrived as a King, ~~there~~ no decent quarters could be found for Him. But when He departed this life, He was treated like a criminal and provided with a good last meal?

John tells us in the book of Revelation that Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me." This is the invitation that he extended to that householder whoever he may have been. This is the invitation He is extending to each of us. We have partaken of that Supper, and have in actuality supped with Him. But have we truly now opened our

Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed. Let us therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 27, 1975
THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. EUGENE STEPHENSON - ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAULA STEPHENSON, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP- HOLY COMMUNION - 7:30

PRELUDE MUSIC: "LIED" DEITHER
"DELIVER ME" FAURE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 221 "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*INVOCATION

*CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS UNTIL
ALL ARE SERVED)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE: MARK 14: 1-16

HYMN No. 145 "TIS MIDNIGHT: AND ON OLIVE'S BROW"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ADAGIO" LISZT

ANTHEM: "GETHSEMANE" ROGERS - SOLO-VON MALONEY

SERMON: "PIECE BY PIECE - CENACULUM!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN No. 278 "O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE "VIA DOLOROSA" BATTMANN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE ELDERNS AND DEACONS WILL SERVE COMMUNION AND WILL
ALSO SERVE AS USHERS.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 7:30 P.M. - HOLY COMMUNION (FEW)

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE UNDERCROFT FOR A FELLOWSHIP
HOUR WITH OUR NEW MEMBERS OUR HONOR GUESTS. THE CONGREGA-
TION IS INVITED AND ALL THOSE WORSHIPPING WITH US THIS
EVENING.

HOSPITALIZED: JODI MARTE

MRI. DAYCRAFT

MRI. THELA NICHOLAS

JUE HANSEFRABA OUT.

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS, REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION
TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US. PLEASE
FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S
RECORD WILL BE ACCURATE. IF VISITORS DESIRE TO
RECEIVE CREDIT AT THEIR HOME CHURCH, PUT THE NAMES
AND ADDRESS OF EITHER YOUR PASTOR OR YOUR CHURCH ON
THE BACK OF THE CARD AND IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

WELCOME VISITORS.

THE YOUTH ARE SAVING EMPTY PAPER TOWEL AND TOILET
PAPER ROLLS.

THE YOUTH ALSO HAVE A DISPLAY OF STATIONARY IN THE
BACK OF THE CHURCH - ORDER CAN BE TAKEN OR WRITE
YOUR NAME ON THE SLIP - SEE PAM FRY OR PAULA
STEPHENSON.

MRS. JANE ANDREWS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE THAT
SENT CARDS, FLOWERS AND ASKED PRAYER, AND ESPECIALLY
FOR ALL OF REV. LINK'S VISITS DURING HER RECENT
STAY IN THE HOSPITAL.

PRAYER: DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, EASTER BRINGS TO MIND
THE TENDEREST AND MOST MEANINGFUL ASSOCIATIONS OF
THE YEAR. IT IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION. LET
US THINK OF OUR DEAR ONES WHO HAVE GONE ON BUT WHO
HAVE NOT LEFT US, WHOM WE WILL MEET AGAIN. AND LET
US THINK OF JESUS, WHO TELLS US ABOUT THE IMMORTALITY
OF LIFE. WE THANK THEE FOR ALL THE THOUGHTS WHICH
EASTER EVOKES. HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR THE FAITH
TAUGHT US BY JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, THAT BECAUSE
HE LIVES, WE SHALL LIVE ALSO, AND THAT SOMEDAY,
SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, WE SHALL MEET OUR LOVED ONES
AGAIN AND KNOW THEM AND LOVE THEM, AND NEVER BE
SEPERATED FROM THEM ANYMORE. THIS IS THE FAITH
OF EASTER DAY, BIND IT CLOSELY AND SECURELY TO OUR
HEARTS AND THEREBY BRING US COMFORT AND PEACE AND
JOY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT LIFE TRIUMPHS OVER DEATH.
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

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Text: Mark 14:14, "And wherever he shall go in, say to the owner of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guest room, where I shall eat the Pass-over with my disciples?"

Lent theme places

Tonite a thing

Up. Rm now called CENACULUM, or CENACLE

It in Jeru in Mosque 1st floor

It eating room, or latest ~~xxxx~~ meal taken

Intrigue surround Js secure room

vs 12 question by discip

vs 13 sends two on errand

mean and water jars

vs 14, question homwowner (TEXT)

Passwords, prearranged plan

Js did not operate hap-hazardly

Luke says, "With desire, I have desired to eat

Deliberately brot to time & place 4 intimacy

Jewish custom ask householder 4 use of house

" " Rabbi's meet with discip

Construction of house

TEXT vs 14

Ironie 2 arrivals Js, similar yet dissimilar

1st Bethlehem no room

2nd Jerusalem room

first as King no room

second as criminal room & last meal

Jn in Rev. "Behold I stand at doo & knock; if any man hear my voice & open the door, I will come in 2 him, & will sup with him & he with me."

This invite He extend 2 ~~xxxx~~ householder whoever B

" " " " " " ea us

We partake sup & have supped with Him

But have we truly opened selves 2 Him completely?

Tendency always 4 any 2 enter relationship Js Xp on limited basis

We want Him B part us, yet want certain part B our

2 have little private sector He no touch

But if we tru discip it mean ope self all way 2 Him

All we have material goods ded. 2 Him

" " " physical lives is His

" " " spiritual gifts His as well

(Illustration Francis Havergal & Hymn)

This season penitence, & espec this nite He begin

suffer cannot we lk suff serv fell twinge He die 4

us? Cannot we say this nite, "Guest rm U may sup & B refresh here my hart Lors Js. Enter & B gues

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.